

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1-21, 23-29, 37, and 38, and ADD claims 39-41 as follows. Please cancel claims 5, 23, and 33 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of providing authentication information to a network application function, said method comprising:~~ comprising:

receiving a request from a user equipment to provide ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information to at least one network application function; and

providing said ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information to at least one network application function.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving ~~step enables~~ comprises enabling access to the network application function by the user equipment.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving ~~step includes~~ comprises receiving the request which includes at least one network application function identity.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said receiving ~~step includes~~ comprises receiving the request which includes an identifier of at least one type of network application function.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~5~~1, wherein said receiving ~~step includes~~ comprises receiving the request by a bootstrapping function.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~5~~1, further ~~including~~ comprising:

obtaining said bootstrapping information.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein the ~~step of~~ obtaining of the bootstrapping information comprises establishing an authentication procedure between the user equipment and a bootstrapping function.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the establishing ~~step includes~~ comprises establishing a shared key within the authentication procedure between the user equipment and the bootstrapping function.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further ~~comprising~~
comprising:

basing the bootstrapping information provided to the at least one network application function on the shared key.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further ~~comprising~~
comprising:

including a transaction identifier in the bootstrapping information provided to the at least one network application function.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein ~~further comprising~~ comprising:

including subscriber profile information in the bootstrapping information provided to the at least one network application function.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said providing ~~step includes~~ comprises providing the bootstrapping information to the at least one network application function that is network application function specific.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the ~~step of~~ obtaining ~~of the~~ bootstrapping information ~~includes~~ comprises retrieving information from a home subscriber server.

15. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of providing bootstrapping information to a network application function entity to enable access by a user equipment, said method comprising:~~ comprising:

generating a request from a user equipment to provide bootstrapping information to at least one network application function entity;

receiving said request at a bootstrapping functional entity;

determining said bootstrapping information at said bootstrapping functional entity;

and

transmitting said determined bootstrapping information to the at least one network application function entity.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said determining ~~step includes~~ comprises determining said bootstrapping information in dependence on a transaction identifier included in said request.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said generating ~~step includes~~ comprises generating the request ~~having~~ comprising at least one network application function identity.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein said generating ~~step includes~~ comprises generating the request ~~having~~ comprising at least one type of network application function.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein said determining ~~step includes~~ comprises determining said bootstrapping information by performing a bootstrapping operation.

20. (Currently Amended) An ~~authentication entity~~ apparatus, comprising:
~~receiving means for receiving~~ a receiver configured to receive a request from a user equipment to provide ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information to at least one network application function entity; and
a determiner configured to determine said bootstrapping information; and
~~transmitting means for transmitting~~ a transmitter configured to transmit said ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information to the at least one network application function entity.

21. (Currently Amended) An ~~authentication entity~~ apparatus according to claim 20, further ~~including~~ comprising:

~~determining means for determining~~ a second determiner configured to determine at least one network application function entity identity from said request.

22. (Currently Amended) An ~~authentication entity~~ apparatus according to claim 20, ~~wherein the authentication information is bootstrapping information, and the authentication entity comprises~~ further comprising:

a bootstrapping functional entity.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An ~~authentication entity~~ apparatus according to claim ~~23~~20, wherein the ~~determining means for determining~~ determiner configured to determine the bootstrapping information comprises an ~~authentication means for establishing~~ authenticator configured to establish an authentication procedure between the user equipment and a bootstrapping function.

25. (Currently Amended) An ~~authentication entity~~ apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the authenticator ~~authentication means~~ establishes a shared key.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~An authentication entity~~ apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the bootstrapping information provided to the at least one network application function entity ~~is~~ based on the shared key.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~An authentication entity~~ apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the bootstrapping information provided to the at least one network application function entity ~~includes~~ comprises a transaction identifier.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~An authentication entity~~ apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the bootstrapping information provided to the at least one network application function entity ~~includes~~ comprises subscriber profile information.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A user equipment~~ An apparatus, comprising:
a transmitter configured to transmit a request to an authentication entity to provide ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information to at least one network application function entity.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A user equipment~~ An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the request is transmitted to a bootstrapping functional entity.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A user equipment~~ An apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the request comprises one of a transaction identifier or a network application function identity.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~A network application function entity~~ An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver configured to receive unsolicited ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information from an authentication function entity.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) ~~A network application function entity~~ An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information is associated with a user equipment.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~A network application function entity~~ An apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information is received from an authentication function, and wherein the ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information is established between said authentication function and the user equipment.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~A network application function entity~~ An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the receipt of the ~~authentication~~ bootstrapping information from an authentication function entity is responsive to a request by a user equipment to the authentication function entity.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A communication system, comprising:~~

at least one user equipment, the user equipment ~~includes~~ comprising means to transmit a transmitter configured to transmit a request to push authentication information to at least one network application function;

at least one network application functional entity; and

a bootstrapping functional entity, the bootstrapping functional entity ~~includes~~ comprising receiving means for receiving a receiver configured to receive the request from the at least one user equipment and ~~transmitting means for transmitting~~ a transmitter configured to transmit said authentication information to the at least one network application function entity,

wherein the at least one network application function ~~includes~~ comprises means ~~adapted to receive~~ a receiver configured to receive unsolicited bootstrapping information from the bootstrapping function entity.

38. (Currently Amended) ~~A system to provide bootstrapping information to a network application function entity to enable access by a user equipment, the system comprising:~~ comprising:

~~generating means for generating~~ a generator configured to generate a request from a user equipment to provide bootstrapping information to at least one network application function entity;

~~receiving means for receiving~~ a receiver configured to receive said request at a bootstrapping functional entity;

~~determining means for determining~~ a determiner configured to determine said bootstrapping information at said bootstrapping functional entity; and

~~transmitting means for transmitting~~ a transmitter configured to transmit said determined bootstrapping information to the at least one network application function entity.

39. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request from a user equipment to provide bootstrapping information to at least one network application function entity; and

transmitting means for transmitting said bootstrapping information to the at least one network application function entity.

40. (New) A system, comprising:

at least one user equipment, the user equipment comprises transmitting means for transmitting a request to push authentication information to at least one network application function;

at least one network application functional entity; and

a bootstrapping functional entity, the bootstrapping functional entity comprises receiving means for receiving the request from the at least one user equipment and transmitting means for transmitting said authentication information to the at least one network application function entity,

wherein the at least one network application function comprises receiving means for receiving unsolicited bootstrapping information from the bootstrapping function entity.

41. (New) A system, comprising:

generating means for generating a request from a user equipment to provide bootstrapping information to at least one network application function entity;

receiving means for receiving said request at a bootstrapping functional entity;

determining means for determining said bootstrapping information at said bootstrapping functional entity; and

transmitting means for transmitting said determined bootstrapping information to the at least one network application function entity.

42. (New) An apparatus, comprising:
transmitting means for transmitting a request to an authentication entity; and
providing means for providing the bootstrapping information to at least one
network.

43. (New) A apparatus, comprising:
receiving means for receiving unsolicited bootstrapping information from an
authentication function entity; and
determining means for determining said bootstrapping information.